

RM-10867 ARRL Petition

I urge FCC to dismiss this proposal with no action.

Amateur Radio does not need another entry class license. The present 3 license classes as defined by FCC are all that are needed. Current testing requirements are fine and should not be changed. The Morse requirement should be retained as is not only for the historical value to amateur radio but because it is a valuable communication media when other means will not get a message through.

Doesn't anyone remember that back in the early 1960's the ARRL pushed for and got incentive licensing much to the dismay of many amateurs. Incentive licensing was responsible for the 5 license classes we just previously had. It seems to me that the ARRL also pushed for the restructuring that we now have. Now they want to change it again?

One of the reasons given for this proposal by the ARRL is so that the techs can take part in the emergency nets on HF. The fact is most emergency nets take place on VHF/UHF. My county EC didn't want to talk to me about emergency operation once I told her that I didn't have any VHF gear.

The ARRL also wants to consolidate the existing license classes. They are indicating that there is not that much difference in the various elements. If this is true, why does the NCVEC along with the ARRL support and promote the various testing elements? These bodies are the ones responsible for the testing elements in the first place. They are also the organizations responsible for producing most of the study guides for the licensing requirements. This appears to be a conflict of interest. Why doesn't part 97 contain an article addressing this?

The fact is that most amateurs currently hold the license that they want. If they want additional privileges, they should be required to study and test for them.

The ARRL cites declining numbers in the amateur ranks. Kids of today are more interested in video games, the internet, and cell phones. Perhaps the amateur community should be finding ways to interest these people in the hobby rather than downgrading it by asking for a new license.

I don't suppose the ARRL wants to address the license structure prior to incentive licensing, when novices got to enjoy HF CW on 3 bands and generals had all amateur privileges.

Let's not downgrade amateur radio any further by all the existing proposals and any future ones that may come down the pike.

Warren Morehead, N7IPG
13 WPM General, studying for Extra